

Old North Church (NPS)

193 Salem Street, Boston

Paul Revere's instructions to sexton Robert Newman on the eve of the Revolution, to "hang a lantern aloft in the belfry arch of the North Church tower as a signal light, one if by land, and two if by sea," along with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's account, have made this building an icon in American history. Built from 1723 to 1740, Old North Church (officially Christ Church) was Boston's second Anglican church and is a superb example of colonial Georgian architecture. Its lines and proportions show that its designer, William Price, was familiar with the work of English architect Christopher Wren. The famous tower has been rebuilt, and at a special service held on April 18 each year, two lanterns are hung and lit from its belfry. Open to the public, it is still an active Episcopal parish church as well as a museum.